EDRN Specimen Reference Sets – Biomarker Reference Sets for Cancers in Women (BRSCW) announcement

This serves to announce the availability of the EDRN Biomarker Reference Set for Cancers in Women (BRSCW). Please post to the Standard Specimen Reference Sets page (http://edrn.nci.nih.gov/researchers/standard−reference−samples).

Request for NCI's Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) Biomarker Reference Sets for Cancers in Women (BRSCW) for prospective biomarker studies

NCI's Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) is a consortium of investigators focused on detection of early cancers and development of biomarkers for cancer detection and risk assessment. In order to advance biomarker research; they developed a 5 phase approach for the biomarker development in clinical application. One of the prerequisites for successful biomarker development is the availability of reference materials for biomarker development. EDRN investigators are actively engaged in creating such reference materials for the research community committed to cancer detection. One such reference sets currently available is the Biomarker Reference Sets for Cancers in Women (BRSCW). They are available to any aspiring investigator with a potential biomarker for cancer detection.

The Biomarker Reference Sets for Cancers in Women (BRSCW) are three sets of serum specimens for initial Phase I evaluation of potentially hundreds of new biomarkers to assess their usefulness in the early detection of breast, endometrial, ovarian, or other female cancers using identical specimen sets. The common feature of all three sets is that they include individual aliquots from 95 healthy women with no personal or strong family history of cancer and 20 identical replicates (for assessing an assay's coefficient of variation). These specimens were collected using the facilities of a blood donation laboratory permitting large volume blood draws that allowed creation of 275 serum aliquots of 0.3ml size for all of the controls and an additional serum pool for creating identical replicates. The standard markers (CA125, CEA, CA72.4, CA15.3, and CA19.9) have been measured in one complete set of specimens to enable a comparison of the new marker with standard markers.

The BRSCW sets were constructed through collaboration between the Partner's Southwestern Clinical Epidemiology and Validation Center and the Duke Biomarker Development Lab from the specimens collected under approved protocols and supported through EDRN.

To be eligible to receive one of the BRSCW sets, investigators must complete the "BRSCW Application Form" attached and receive approval from the appropriate EDRN Collaborative Group and the Executive Committee. To receive these specimens the investigator needs to demonstrate that a workable assay has been developed for use on sera and that preliminary data is available that the marker may have value in the detection of breast, endometrial, ovarian cancer, or a cancer other than these (if only control specimens are desired). In addition the investigator must show that resources are available to process the specimen and agree to certain conditions including the timely return of the data to the DMCC and posting of the results on the EDRN website. For more information and application form, please contact Dr. Padma Maruvada at (301) 496 3893 or maruvadp@mail.nih.gov or Dr. Sudhir Srivastava at (301) 496 3983 or ss1a@nih.gov.